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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 935  
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Walter Durham upon his appointment by Governor Don Sundquist as Tennessee State Historian.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a rich historical legacy, and it is of great importance that our heritage be protected and nourished so that future generations might learn and benefit from it; and

WHEREAS, Walter Durham is an estimable Tennessean who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors, and throughout his life, he has sought to preserve and protect Tennessee's heritage; and

WHEREAS, Governor Don Sundquist recently appointed Mr. Durham to serve as Tennessee's State Historian; in doing so, he stated, "Tennessee is known for its rich and

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diverse history, and Walter is one of our most knowledgeable historical experts. I am confident that he will do an excellent job in documenting and promoting the history of our great state"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durham has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, in his professional career, he earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and employees as a Partner and Chairman of Durham Manufacturing Company, the President of Gallatin Aluminum Products Company, Inc., the Chairman of First and Peoples National Bank of Gallatin, and the Chairman of the Advisory Board of First American National Bank of Gallatin, later AmSouth; and

WHEREAS, he is a highly respected leader in the historical community of America, and he has served as President of the Tennessee Historical Society, the Tennessee Heritage Alliance, the Friends of the Vanderbilt Library, and the Sumner County Historical Society, as the Chairman of the Tennessee Library Advisory Council and the Tennessee Archives Summit, as a Delegate to the White House Conference on Library and Information Service, and as a member of the Tennessee American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, the Board of the Cumberland Museum and Science Center, the Board of Trustees of the Hermitage, the Board of Visitors of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, and the Board of Trustees of the APTA Endowment Trust; and

WHEREAS, he has received numerous prestigious honors and awards, including the 1991 Tennessee History Book Award presented by the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Tennessee Library Association, and the American Association of State and Local History's 1973 Award of Merit; and

WHEREAS, this prominent Tennessean has also written sixteen books and has had many articles published in *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* and other journals and periodicals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durham's remarkable success as a historian, professional and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor in Gallatin; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Durham is devoted to his family; he is most grateful for the love and partnership he shares with his wife, the former Anna Armstrong Coile; he is also the loving father of four children, Anna Durham Windrow, Bob Durham, Jim Durham, and Elizabeth Durham Lindsey, and the proud grandfather of four grandchildren, Robert Windrow, Allison Durham, Samantha Lindsey, and Stanley Lindsey; and

WHEREAS, Walter Durham is wholly committed to the noble precepts that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Walter Durham upon his appointment as Tennessee State Historian, salute his professional excellence and unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and thank him for his stalwart service to the preservation of this state's panoramic history, and to the people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish him much continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.